

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 12324 092013Z

63

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 DPW-01 EUR-10

ACDA-10 RSR-01 /076 W

----- 034495

R 091244Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4329

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12324

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON USDAO SAIGON USSAG NAKHON PHANOM  
JULY 9 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION AND INFO

QUOTE

CAN THO 554

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JULY 9, 1973

SUMMARY: REPORTED INCIDENTS IN THE DELTA CONTINUED  
TO BE LOW IN NUMBER. CORPS COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN VINH  
NGHI CONFIRMED PRIVATELY THAT VC/NVA ACTIVITY IS LESS.  
RF FORCES IN BAC LIEU SCORED A SUBSTANTIAL VICTORY OVER  
THE VC. A VC AMBUSH IN VINH LONG PROVINCE RESULTED IN  
FOUR RF KILLED AND 19 WOUNDED. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE  
PF MANNING AN OUTPOST DEFFECTED TO THE VC. THE VINH LONG  
ICCS TEAM IS IN SOME CONFUSION. AN ARVN POW  
REPORTS ON A VC POW CAMPT SOUTHWEST OF CAN THO. END  
SUMMARY.

1. FUCURITY SITUATION: (A) MR IV REPORTED 24 VC/NVA  
INITIATED INCIDENTS ON BOTH THE 7TH AND 8TH OF JULY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 12324 092013Z

ATTACKS BY FIRE AGAIN MADE UP THE BULK OF THE INCIDENTS

WITH 16 OCCURRING ON JULY 7 AND 13 ON JULY 8. THERE WERE SIX AND EIGHT HARASSMENTS AND TWO AND ONE GROUND ATTACKS ON 7 AND 8 JULY RESPECTIVELY. TWO TERRORIST INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED ON JULY 8 WITH NONE OCCURRING ON THE 7TH. OVER THE TWO DAY PERIOD RVNAF SUFFERED 20 KILLED AND 127 WOUNDED AND FOUR MISSING WITH AN ADDITIONAL ONE CIVILIAN KILLED AND WOUNDED. THEY ALSO REPORTED LOSING SIX INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. THE VC/NVA REPORTEDLY HAD 76 MEN KILLED AND THREE CAPTURED. THEY ALSO HAD ONE CREW-SERVED WEAPON AND 22 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS CAPTURED BY THE RVNAF.

(B) MR IV COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN VINH NGHI TOLD THE CONSUL GENERAL JULY 9 THAT VC-INITIATED CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DEFINITELY HAD DECLINED SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF CEASEFIRE II. HE BACKED UP HIS POINT GRAPHICALLY WITH A CHART IN HIS OFFICE RECORDING THE ALLEGED INCIDENCE OF VC/NVA ATTACKS SINCE JANUARY.

(C) A GVN FORCE MOUNTED AN AIRMOBILE OPERATION JULY 6 DEEP INTO A VC BASE AREA ON THE AN XUYEN-BAC LIEU BORDER AND SCORED A SUBSTANTIAL VICTORY. THE 447TH RF BATTALION AND AN INTELLIGENCE AND RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON SURPRISED THE VC ABOUT NOON AND INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES. BAC LIEU PROVINCE CHIEF NGUYEN NGOC DIEP CLAIMED THAT HIS FORCES KILLED 21 AND CAPTURED 10 VC, DESTROYED SEVEN HOUSES AND 22 SAMPANS, AND SEIZED WEAPONS, DOCUMENTS, AND MEDICINE. MANY OF THE RETREATING VC WERE CAUGHT IN DEEP WATER AND KILLED. THE UNLUCKY VC WERE IDENTIFIED AS ELEMENTS OF THE C-1010 QUANG LONG DISTRICT LOCAL FORCE COMPANY, TOGETHER WITH SOME FINANCE AND ECONOMIC CADRE. (QUANG LONG DISTRICT IS IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE AND BORDERS BAC LIEU'S GIA RAI DISTRICT, SCENE OF THE FIGHT. THE VC CONSIDER BOTH DISTRICTS PART OF ITS VC CA MAU PROVINCE.)

(D) THE VC JULY 3 AMBUSHED A FOUR-TRUCK CONVOY, ESCORTED BY 140 SOLDIERS OF THE 520TH RF BATTALION, IN MY THANH TRUNG VILLAGE, TAM BINH DISTRICT, VINH LONG. DELAYED BY A BREAKDOWN, THE CONVOY PUSHED AHEAD AFTERDARK, AND WAS STRUCK BY THE VC AT 2230 HOURS. FOUR RF WERE KILLED AND 19 WOUNDED. ONE TRUCK WAS DESTROYED AND ANOTHER BADLY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 12324 092013Z

DAMAGED. AN ICCS TEAM FROM VINH LONG INVESTIGATED THE INCIDENT THE NEXT DAY. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS UTILIZED THEIR USUAL OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS. OBSERVING A HOLE IN THE GAS TANK OF THE DEMOLISHED TRUCK, ONE OF THEM SAID IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY EXPLODING AMMUNITION ON THE VEHICLE. WHEN A CANADIAN CAPTAIN PICKED ROCKET FRAGMENTS OUT OF THE HOLE, HE WAS ACCUSED OF PLANTING THEM. A CANADIAN MAJOR LATER REMARKED TO A VICE CONSUL

THAT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAD ALWAYS OPPOSED THE CANADIANS, BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THEY HAD ATTACKED THE CANADIANS' INTEGRITY.

(E) THE VC APPARENTLY ENTICED AN ENTIRE PF OUTPOST GARRISON IN VINH LONG JULY 2 TO DEFECT WITH THEIR WEAPONS. EYEWITNESSES IN PHU AN HAMLET, TRUNG HIA VILLAGE, VUONG LIEM DISTRICT, SAID THE 15 PF MANNING THE LOCAL OUTPOST WERE DISGRUNTLED FOR WANT OF PAY AND SUPPLIES. SOME VC APPEARED AND ASKED THE PF TO COME OUT, HAVE A DRINK, AND TALK THINGS OVER. AFTER A TIME, THE WHOLE GARRISON DECAMPED WITH THE VC. AN RF COMPANY ARRIVED ON THE SCENE THE NEXT DAY TO FIND THE OUTPOST ABANDONED AND DESTROYED.

2. ICCS: A VISITING VICE CONSUL IN VINH LONG JULY 6 FOUND THE ICCS SUB-REGIONAL TEAM IN THE THROES OF ACUTE TRANSITION. THE CANADIANS ARE REPAIRING MG LEAVE ABOUT JULY 25. THE HUNGARIAN LEADER, CAPTAIN HEGEDUS, WAS LEAVING THE NEXT DAY TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP OF HIS COUNTRY'S CA MAU SUB-REGIONAL TEAM. HIS SUCCESSOR, LTC BURJAN, HAD JUST ARRIVED. THE INDONESIAN TEAM LEADER, MAJOR BOEDIMAN, LEAVES JULY 13 FOR HOME WHERE HE WILL TAKE EXAMINATIONS FOR ENTRY INTO THE INDONESIAN GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE IN BANDUNG. BOEDIMAN SAID HE EXPECTS THE NEW INDONESIAN ICCS TEAM TO ARRIVE IN SAIGON JULY 21 FOR A SHORT STAY BEFORE DEPLOYING TO THE REGIONAL SITES. IN A FEW WEEKS, THEREFORE, THE POLISH TEAM, HEADED BY LTC TADEUSZ BANEL, WILL FIND ITSELF THE SENIOR GROUP AMONG ITS ICCS COLLEAGUES.

3. VC ACTIVITIES: AN ARVN SOLDIER CLAIMED HE WAS HELD IN A VC PRISONER OF WAR CAMPT ONLY 20 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 12324 092013Z

OF CAN THO. THE FORMER POW, A PRIVATE OF TMXW2ND COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 16TH REGIMENT OF THE 9TH ARVN DIVISION, WAS CAPTURED BY THE VC IN CHUONG THIEN JUNE 25. HE SAID HIS CAPTORS MARCHED HIM TO A CAMP, WERE ABOUT 40 OTHER GVN PRISONERS WERE HELD, ON THE DUNG SU CANAL, LE TAM VILLAGE, THUAN NHON DISTRICT, PHONG DINH. HE ESCAPED JULY 8.

4. SLECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: THE VINH LONG PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE SAID JULY 6 THAT THERE IS NO CEASEFIRE IN VINH LONG. HE SAID INCIDENTS IN JULY WERE RUNNING ABOUT FOUR A DAY, SOMEWHAT BELOW THE DAILY AVERAGE DURING MAY AND JUNE, BUT HIGHER THAN THE DAILY AVERAGE IN MARCH AND APRIL. MOST OF THESE INCIDENTS--MORTARINGS, HARASSMENTS, BOOBY TRAPS AND LIGHT GROUND

ATTACKS--AR HONESTLY REPORTED AT THE SUBSECTOR (DISTRICT)  
LEVEL, BUT FALL OUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE BEFORE THEY  
REACH THE DAILY MR IV BRIEFING. SIGNED LEHMANN  
UNQUOTE  
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMISTICE, COMBAT OPERATIONS, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JUL 1973  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON12324  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS WHITEHOUSE  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730746/aaaabhly.tel  
**Line Count:** 174  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SITREP FOR JULY 9, 1973 SUMMARY: REPORTED INCIDENTS IN THE DELTA CONTINUED  
**TAGS:** MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005